

was objecting to making sure that our veterans, elderly veterans, could go home. What is wrong? Something is wrong here with these debates. I don't know where the heart is, where the soul is. I don't know where the common sense is.

I pray and hope that tomorrow, come morning, we are able to get the votes to keep this funding in the supplemental. Again, I thank Senator COCHRAN. I thank the Chair for his patience.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside.

Mr. ENSIGN. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I want to reiterate my motion simply to have an opportunity to offer an amendment. I think it is an emergency, and it is a moral imperative to deal with the issue in Darfur, Sudan. So I hope the mere opportunity to have a debate on the floor of the Senate would be allowed.

I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Senator from Nevada

Mr. ENSIGN. Reserving the right to object, I support the Senator from New Jersey. I support the intent of his amendment and realize there is a severe emergency in Darfur about which many of us feel strongly, and we need to do something there. During consideration of this bill, we have been trying to hold the line on spending, to reprioritize. If there is something else the Senator can offer as an offset for this increase in spending, I would be more than happy to let the amendment be debated and voted on. But without an offset, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I say to my distinguished colleague, if I may, that we have talked with both the chairman's staff and with others who express the view that this is a moral imperative and have suggested offsets, none of which have been accepted. So it is very difficult to have a position in which we all agree there is a moral imperative to act and then we reject every offset that is proposed.

Understanding the Senator's concern, but also understanding that genocide does not have an offset to it, I once again ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ENSIGN. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. If I may ask the Presiding Officer a parliamentary question: If we were to proceed to the Senator's unanimous consent request, would that obviate the ability to offer an amendment during that time period?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It would.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Then I have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ENSIGN. Reserving the right to object, what I understand is that the Senator from New Jersey is going to send an amendment to the desk that has an offset for the funding for Darfur, and with that as a modification to the unanimous consent request, I will not object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3777, AS MODIFIED

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I call up my amendment that is at the desk with a modification and ask unanimous consent that it be considered at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the amendment, as modified.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ], for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. DODD, and Mr. OBAMA, proposes an amendment numbered 3777, as modified.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 89, line 9, strike "\$69,800,000, to remain available until September 30, 2007: *Provided*, That the amount provided under this heading is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1006."

and insert in lieu thereof "\$129,800,000, to remain available until September 30, 2007: *Provided*, That the amount provided under this heading is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006."

SEC.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount provided for "Diplomatic and Consular Programs" shall be \$1,392,600,000.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, last Sunday, thousands of Americans gathered here in Washington, DC, and in other cities across the country to focus our attention on the horrific acts being committed a world away in Darfur, Sudan. But it wasn't a gathering of the powerful, although politicians and celebrities were there. It was a gathering of the American community—of high school students, of members of synagogues and colleges, of churches, of people of all races, ethnicities, and religions. In fact, the movement to stop genocide in Darfur has been led by some of the youngest in our society.

In New Jersey, students in middle schools have raised funds for refugees. Young people at colleges have led the movement to divest from Sudan. They are not the leaders of the future; they are the leaders of today.

I know that as I stand here calling for action, I am not alone. In my home State of New Jersey, high school students started a nonprofit organization called Help Darfur Now which raises awareness and funds for the refugees in the Sudan.

Newark, NJ, is the headquarters of the Darfur Rehabilitation Project, a national group started by the Sudanese people living in the United States who lobby for humanitarian aid, intervention, and conflict resolution in the Sudan. And across the country, Americans are signing petitions, participating in marches, holding townhall events and contacting their elected officials to demand that the dire needs of the Darfuran people be addressed. It seems to me as representatives of the people, it is our job to act.

Here in Congress, many of our fellow colleagues in the Senate and in the House of Representatives have led the fight for real action to address the genocide in Darfur, and I certainly salute them for their hard work.

When we talk about genocide, it seems to me it is almost impossible for any of us to take the intellectual understanding of what that means: the number of people killed, over what period of time, and for what reason, and to comprehend the dimensions of such atrocities.

The truth is that each of the estimated 200,000 to 400,000 people murdered in Darfur was a father, a mother, a sister, a daughter, or son slaughtered by their own countrymen whose ethnic makeup and religion was similar to their own. Each of these people has a family who mourns them and a community that lost them.

Many of us here cannot imagine what life is like for the at least 2 million